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CLASSIFICATION SECRET/ SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Fall Maneuver in the Thuringian Area 50X1-HUM

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 22 October 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 13 and 14 October 1953, fall maneuvers of all branches of service and supported by air force were conducted in the Arnstadt-Saalfeld area. The thrust of attack was directed toward west and/or southwest. Major artillery, tank, AAA and rocket launcher units arrived in the maneuver area via Erfurt and Jena. The main roads in the training area were blocked and all civilians were subject to thorough controls. The maneuver started on 10 October. the Ohrdruf troop training grounds was entirely vacated on 9 and 10 October. 50X1-HUM

2. Large-scale fall maneuvers including intensive air activity were conducted in the area of Jena, Weimar, Eisenach, Ohrdruf, Meiningen, Saalfeld and Kahla Major units were seen en route through Jena toward a southerly direction. Trains with tanks, artillery, AAA and AT artillery were unloaded in Goeschwitz. After 8 a.m. on 13 October, heavy gun fire was heard and intensive air activity was observed.

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3. On 13 and 14 October, heavily soiled troops were seen moving from the area south of Saalfeld to the area west of Arnstadt via Arnstadt. The movements were still observed on 15 October. about 250 trucks, armored personnel 50X1-HUM carriers and about 5,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and most of them carrying field packs. Most of the vehicles flew white and red flags.

Low-level attacks by up to 12 planes, presumably IL-10s, were made over Ilm-Arnstadt while the troops marched. About 30 MiG-15s repeatedly approached Arnstadt from a northerly direction, from where detonations were also heard. 50X1-HUM

Comment. during the fall maneuvers in Thuringia after 9 October, covered only the area south of Jena and Weimar. . It is now evident 50X1-HUM that the exercises extended farther to the south as far as Saalfeld and, having advanced from east to west, presumably terminated in the Ohrdruf area on 15 October. The statements about Ohrdruf tend to indicate that the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps participated.

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